

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

QUARTER HORSE MEETING

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 1977

MOST REPUBLICANS IN CONGRESS BELIEVE, AS I DO, THAT THE NEW PRESIDENT SHOULD BE GIVEN EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE TRANSITION -- ALWAYS A DIFFICULT ONE -- FROM THE RHETORICAL FOURISHES OF OPPOSITION CANDIDATE TO THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITIES OF GOVERNING THIS NATION. WHEN HE TAKES THE RIGHT COURSE, WE WILL HAPPILY SUPPORT HIM. WHEN WE CONSIDER HIS POLICIES TO BE ILL ADVISED, WE WILL DO MORE THAN JUST OPPOSE HIM. WE WILL OFFER ALTERNATIVE IDEAS THAT WE HOPE WILL BE IN TUNE WITH THE THINKING OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

THE PROBLEMS THAT WE FACE AT HOME AND AROUND THE WORLD ARE GRIM.

HOW TO GET THE ECONOMY BACK IN GOOD RUNNING ORDER, HOW TO GET MORE PEOPLE BACK TO WORK WITHOUT SETTING OFF A NEW SURGE OF INFLATION, IS ONE OF THEM.

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HOW TO INCREASE THE SUPPLY OF ENERGY WITHOUT RUNNING FUEL PRICES BEYOND THE REACH OF MIDDLE INCOME AMERICANS IS ANOTHER.

I BELIEVE FEDERAL SPENDING CAN BE CUT BELOW WHAT THE PRESIDENT PROPOSES IN HIS NEW BUDGET REVISIONS. IF THIS IS DONE, I BELIEVE INCOME TAX RATES CAN BE REDUCED PERMANENTLY -- NOT JUST THE ONE-SHOT \$50 REBATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SUGGESTS. TAXES ARE THE FASTEST GROWING EXPENSE ITEM IN THE FAMILY BUDGET. THEY DON'T SHOW UP IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, BUT EVERY AMERICAN FAMILY FEELS THE PINCH. INSTEAD OF TEMPORARY MAKE-WORK PROJECTS, I FAVOR SPECIAL TAX CREDITS THAT WOULD BE AN INCENTIVE FOR EMPLOYERS TO HIRE ADDITIONAL WORKERS.

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IN THE ENERGY FIELD, AMERICANS ARE GOING TO HAVE TO CONSERVE, AND THE FREE MARKET IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE PERMITTED TO WORK. THE MAZE OF GOVERNMENT CONTROLS AND CONFLICTING POLICIES ONLY RESULTS IN PRICE DISTORTIONS AND A CONFUSING, CONTRADICTORY MISHMASH OF INCENTIVES AND DISINCENTIVES FOR PRODUCERS.

NO MATTER HOW BIG THE FEDERAL BUDGET IS, GOVERNMENT WON'T SOLVE THESE OR ANY OTHER PROBLEMS ALONE. THE BUREAUCRACY IS IN A PERIOD OF CRISIS. EITHER IT SHAPES UP AND PERFORMS MORE EFFICIENTLY, OR PUBLIC CONFIDENCE WILL CONTINUE TO ERODE AWAY.

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REORGANIZATION APPROVED

LAST WEEK, THE SENATE TOOK THE FIRST STEP BY VOTING UNANIMOUSLY TO GIVE THE PRESIDENT THE AUTHORITY HE REQUESTED TO SUBMIT REORGANIZATION PLANS. UNDER THE BILL THAT WE PASSED, HE COULD SHIFT FUNCTIONS FROM ONE AGENCY TO ANOTHER, COMBINE THEM, OR ABOLISH THEM. THE REORGANIZATION WOULD TAKE EFFECT AUTOMATICALLY UNLESS EITHER THE HOUSE OR THE SENATE REJECTED IT WITHIN TWO MONTHS. HOWEVER, THE PRESIDENT COULD NOT DISCONTINUE A PROGRAM OR ABOLISH AN ENTIRE DEPARTMENT, WITHOUT SPECIFIC ADVANCE LEGISLATIVE PERMISSION. BUT HE WOULD HAVE THE FLEXIBILITY THAT HE NEEDS TO START THE JOB.

DURING THE CAMPAIGN, MR. CARTER TALKED ABOUT SHRINKING THE NUMBER OF AGENCIES FROM 1,900 TO 200 -- A COMMENDABLE GOAL IF IT CAN BE REACHED.

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THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROBLEMS NOW ARE IN THE HOUSE COMMITTEE THAT HAS JURISDICTION OVER THE REORGANIZATION BILL THERE. REPUBLICANS ARE WHOLEHEARTEDLY BEHIND WHAT THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO DO, BUT REPRESENTATIVE JACK BROOKS, A DEMOCRAT FROM TEXAS WHO IS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, IS THE MAJOR BARRIER AT THE MOMENT. THE PROLIFERATION OF BUREAUS AND AGENCIES HAS GONE AHEAD AT BREAKNECK SPEED IN STEP WITH THE GROWTH OF MORE AND MORE CATEGORICAL SPENDING PROGRAMS. THE PROGRAMS ARE ALL SUPPORTED BY THEIR OWN COLLECTIONS OF INTEREST GROUPS AND THEY ARE ALL TOGETHER BY BUSHEL OF RED TAPE.

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TOO MUCH PAPERWORK

A SENSIBLE PARTIAL SOLUTION WOULD BE TO TURN SOME OF THIS PROCESSING AND DECISION MAKING BACK CLOSER TO THE PLACES WHERE THE PROBLEMS ARE -- IN YOUR COMMUNITIES. A RECENT REPORT BY THE GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE SPELLED OUT THE ONEROUS PAPERWORK BURDEN ON THE STATES AND LOCALITIES BY THESE HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF SEPARATE FEDERAL SUPERVISING AGENCIES.

HERE IS ONE EXAMPLE:

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MANY DIFFERENT FEDERAL AGENCIES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES TO PROMOTE AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN THE HIRING OF WOMEN, MINORITIES, THE HANDICAPPED AND VETERANS. HOWEVER DESIRABLE THAT NATIONAL GOAL IS, THE REGULATORY ACTIVITY SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE CONNECTION WITH THE DESIRED RESULT, WHICH IS THE HIRING OF PEOPLE. AT ONE POINT IN 1975, THE HEW OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS REQUIRED 14 SEPARATE ANALYSES OF EVERY EMPLOYMENT TRANSACTION, AND RECORD KEEPING WAS DUPLICATED TO SOME EXTENT BY THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION, THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, AND OTHER AGENCIES. THIS AMOUNTED TO MORE THAN 100,000 SEPARATE INDIVIDUAL ANALYSES FOR THE MADISON CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN ALONE. THE FINAL AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR THAT CAMPUS RAN TO 16 VOLUMES AND ROUGHLY 6,000 PAGES.

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WHY NOT BLOCK GRANTS?

IT WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TO CONSOLIDATE AGENCIES IF WE FIRST CONSOLIDATED THE GRANT PROGRAMS THAT THEY ADMINISTER. UNFORTUNATELY, IN THE BUDGET MESSAGE THAT HE JUST SENT TO CONGRESS, MR. CARTER REJECTED THE MOVE TOWARD BLOCK GRANTS. PRESIDENT FORD HAD CALLED FOR THE CONSOLIDATION OF MANY OF THESE CATEGORICAL PROGRAMS. BY WRAPPING ALL THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS INTO ONE PACKAGE, FOR EXAMPLE, YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS WOULD HAVE MORE FREEDOM TO USE THE MONEY WHERE IT WILL DO THE MOST GOOD. AND THEY WOULD NEED TO MAKE ONLY ONE INSTEAD OF DOZENS OF APPLICATIONS. BUT MR. CARTER TOOK THE POSITION THAT CONGRESS KNOWS BEST HOW TO SPEND FEDERAL FUNDS IN YOUR HOME TOWN. THE GUIDELINES, PRIORITIES, AND MULTIPLE REGULATIONS MUST NECESSARILY BE UNIFORM, EVEN THROUGH THE CONDITIONS AND PROBLEMS MAY BE FAR DIFFERENT.

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CONSOLIDATING TWO FEDERAL GRANTS IS NOT AS EASY FOR THE PUBLIC TO UNDERSTAND AS ABOLISHING AN AGENCY THAT ADMINISTERS ONE OF THEM. BUT IT IS JUST AS IMPORTANT, AND IN THE LONG RUN, IT WILL AFFECT THE POCKETBOOKS OF AMERICANS IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

PRESIDENT CARTER IS CLEARLY ON THE RIGHT TRACK WHEN HE STRESSES THE NEED FOR OVERHAULING THE BUREAUCRACY. BUT IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER THE REFORMS WILL BE REAL OR COSMETIC. WE REPUBLICANS BELIEVE WE ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE PUBLIC MOOD IN ALL CORNERS OF THIS NATION WHEN WE PROPOSE THE SIMPLIFICATION OF GOVERNMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS; FEDERAL SPENDING AND TAXES; AND PERMANENT JOBS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR INSTEAD OF TEMPORARY PUBLIC SERVICE JOBS.

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NEW OT. 100
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